

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY of VIGO COUNTY

by
VERNON R. HELMEN

Indianapolis
Indiana Historical Commission

1952

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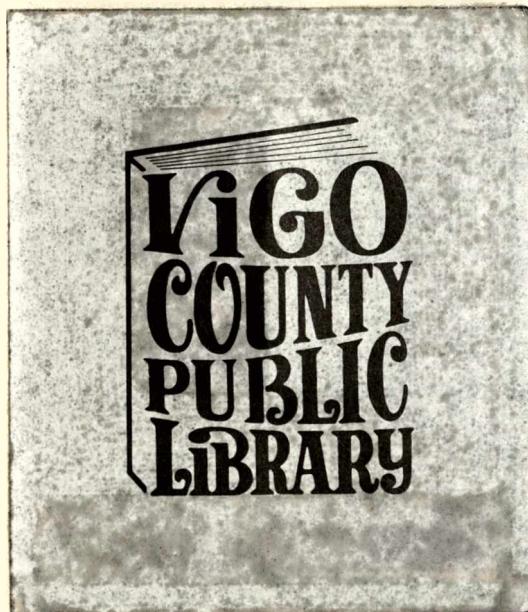
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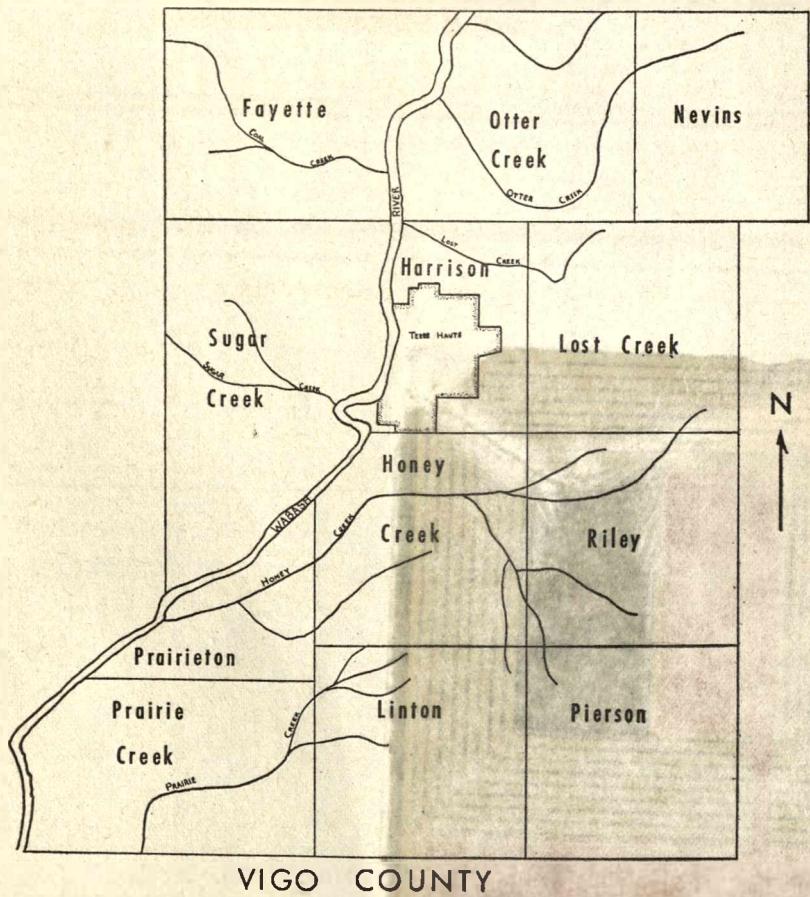
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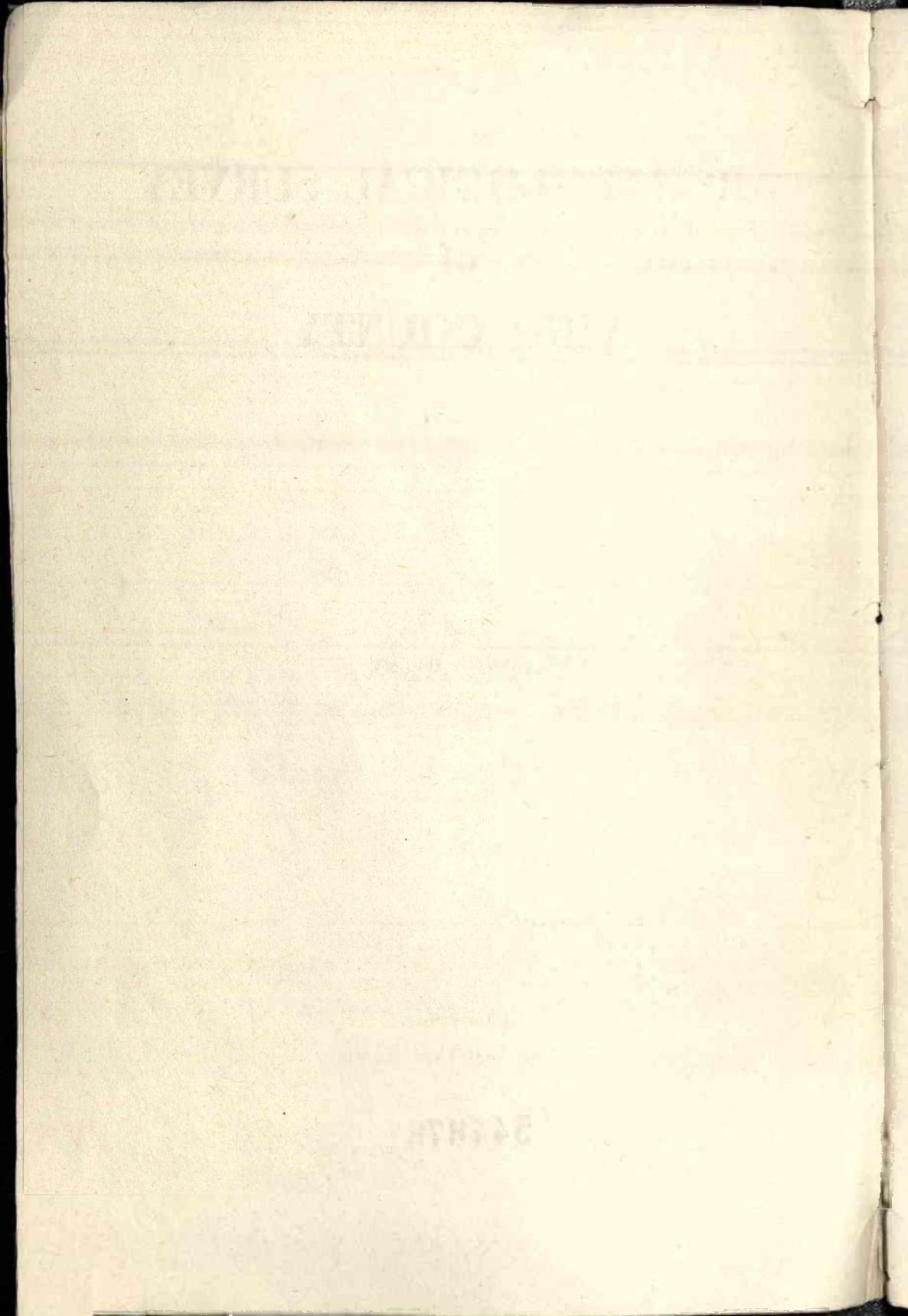


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INTRODUCTION

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY of Vigo County, Indiana, was undertaken during the summer of 1949 by the Indiana Historical Bureau. For the most part, the survey was limited to surface collecting and observation, as the purpose was not to examine one or two sites exhaustively, but rather to obtain a general knowledge of the types and distribution of sites occurring in the county.

The author wishes to take this opportunity to thank the people of Vigo County for their interest in and courtesy to the survey party. Special thanks are extended to John Biel and Guy Stantz for their help in the field, to Warden Joseph Overlade for permission to salvage the remains of a village site uncovered on the Federal Penitentiary grounds, and to W. E. Ouweneel for aid in locating sites and the use of his collection for study purposes.

THE SURVEY

IN ORDER to facilitate study and comparison, the sites in this report are grouped according to general type; thus, villages, camps, and mounds are reported in separate sections. This can be very misleading, since in several instances mounds and villages undoubtedly comprise parts of the same site. However, such treatment is a practical necessity when information has been obtained through surface survey only. It is impossible to assign a mound or mound group to one or more adjacent village sites on the strength of meager surface evidence alone. Even the groupings themselves are quite arbitrary. A village, in this report, is a site producing evidence of continued, permanent habitation as indicated by the presence of pottery, human bone, and a profusion of artifacts or artifact types. A camp is a less intensively occupied area, probably a place of temporary habitation, and is evidenced by less abundant surface material. Mounds are artificial structures of earth erected for burial or ceremonial purposes. These definitions are applied to sites only on the basis of surface evidence. Excavation could at any time show a site to be other than as classified in this report.

THE AREA

The natural environment of Vigo County is first and foremost the environment of the Wabash River Valley. Topography, climate, soils, and vegetation are intimately associated with the history and activity of this river; and without doubt the prehistory, as well as the history, of human occupation of the area shows the same close relationship.

Topographically, the entire county lies within a zone known as the Wabash Lowland.¹ This is a broad lowland tract, extending up from the Ohio River, which is characterized by wide alluvial lands, some of which are actually lacustrine in origin. This zone has the lowest average elevation in Indiana. It also has the longest growing season, the highest night temperatures, the least snowfall, the heaviest rainfall, and the most winter sunshine in the state. Much of the zone is excellent for farming, with extensive level tracts and gently rolling land.

¹ Malott, C. A., "The Physiography of Indiana," in *Handbook of Indiana Geology* (Indiana Department of Conservation, 1922), 102-4.

Within this larger zone there are in Vigo County three topographical areas which differ in altitude, drainage, soil, and vegetation: 1) *The bottom lands.* Immediately bordering the Wabash River and its tributaries are rich alluvial plains, subject to overflow, which average about a mile in width. These bottoms were originally covered with a varied and luxuriant forest of stream-bottom trees.² The early surveyors mention the following:

- Elm (*Ulmus americana* L. and *Ulmus fulva* Michx.)
- Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis* L.)
- Blue Ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata* Michx.)
- White ash (*Fraxinus americana* L.)
- Sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua* L.)
- Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica* Marsh.)
- Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis* L.)
- Lynn (*Tilia americana* L.)
- Water beech (*Carpinus caroliniana* Walt.)
- Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* L.)
- Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* L.)
- Coffeенut (*Gymnocladus dioica* (L.) Koch.)
- Black walnut (*Juglans nigra* L.)
- White walnut (*Juglans cinerea* L.)
- Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* Marsh.)
- Maple (*Acer saccharinum* L. and/or *Acer rubrum* L.)
- Box elder (*Acer negundo* L.)
- Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra* Wild.)
- Cottonwood (*Populus* spp.)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)
- Mulberry (*Morus rubra* L.)
- Willow (*Salix* spp.)
- Cherry (*Prunus serotina* Ehrh.)
- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba* Dunal.)
- Dogwood (*Cornus florida* L.)
- White oak (*Quercus alba*)
- Hickory (*Carya* spp.)
- Pecan (*Carya pecan* (Marsh.) Engler & Graebner)

Within the bottoms the meandering of the Wabash River has left numerous ponds and cutoffs, called "bayous," some of which form extensive bodies of water.

2) *The second terrace of the Wabash River Valley.* This is set off from the bottoms by bluffs rising thirty to forty feet above high water. Upon this second terrace, which has rich, well-drained soils, was

² The original Congressional land survey, made from 1811 to 1816, in Land Office Record in the Auditor's Office, Indiana State Capitol.

found the chain of dry, sandy prairies where the first settlements were made. These prairies were originally treeless and covered with lush grasses. They have been completely obliterated by building and cultivation since the advent of European settlers. Immediately surrounding the prairies were zones of sparse oak (*Quercus* spp.) and hickory (*Carya* spp.) woods which in turn gave way to mixed mesophytic forest of tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), hickory, black walnut (*Juglans nigra* L.), ash (*Fraxinus* spp.), white oak (*Quercus alba* L.), dogwood (*Cornus florida* L.), and ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana* (Mill.), K. Koch.) dominated by an abundance of beech (*Fagus grandifolia* Ehrh.) and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* Marsh.)

3) *The highland region or third terrace.* Here the land is generally unproductive with heavy, poorly drained clay soil originally covered with jack, burr, black, white, and post oak (*Q. marilandica* Muench., *Q. macrocarpa* Michx. and/or *Q. velutina* Lam., *Q. alba* L. and *Q. stellata* Lang.) and hickory (*Carya* spp.) forest and numerous "wet prairies." These prairies were mucky, grass-covered tracts subject to standing water and extreme drying, very poor for either farming or habitation.

With the wide variety of possible natural environments available to early inhabitants of the county—wet prairie, dry prairie, stream-bottom forests, oak-hickory forests, swamp regions and swamp forest (elm, ash, soft maple, and sweet gum), beech-sugar maple forests; bluffs, flats, and rolling country; streams of all sizes as well as a main north-south arterial stream—it is of interest to note the distribution of Indian sites noted by the survey. Almost without exception, they are located on the second terrace of the river or its tributaries. The villages, in particular, tend to be situated on the edges of dry sandy prairies. Both wet prairies and clay flats of the southeast part of the county and the rich wooded bottom lands were avoided. Swamps and bayous seemed to hold no attraction. Except where the second terrace bluff extends close to the river, occupancy tended to be at least a mile or more from the Wabash River itself. It can readily be seen that the areas chosen for habitation were those places where there was good drainage and high dry ground above the overflow; treeless tracts, usually adjacent to forests. Undoubtedly such locations were convenient to both hunting and fishing grounds while, at the same time, the immediate surroundings could be cultivated without the laborious necessity of clearing trees.

It is not known when Europeans first entered the area that today comprises Vigo County. The Wabash was a well-known trade route before 1700. We do know that in 1759, Mons. de Aubry, the French commandant at Fort Chartres, paused at a Wea village near Terre Haute when

he passed up the Wabash with a mixed French and Indian army on its way to reinforce Quebec.³ Traditionally it is said that Michael Brouillette opened a trading post at the mouth of Brouillette's Creek in 1797, but there is no verification for this.⁴ Our best definite date is October 3, 1811,⁵ the date that General Harrison and his army reached the present-day site of Terre Haute. They found there a Wea village called We-a-u-ta-no and, near by, an old orchard probably planted by an unknown European. Harrison passed the future site of Terre Haute and stopped just north of it to build a fort in the prairie located there, a site now known as Harrison Prairie.

From the time of the establishment of the fort, settlement was quite rapid. It is debatable as to who was the first settler after the establishment of the fort, but the influx of people was sufficiently great to enable the creation of the County of Vigo, established by an act passed on the first Monday of December, 1817, and approved on January 21, 1818, by the first state governor, Jonathan Jennings.

The county was named for Francis Vigo, whose financial aid to the Clark expedition during the Revolutionary War made possible the conquest of the Northwest Territory for the United States.

VILLAGE SITES

The village sites reported below are located only by section, township, and range designations in addition to the name of the political township in which they were found. A more precise location can be determined by reference to the site catalogue on file at the Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis.

Vigo 5, Section 4, T 13 N, R 8 W, Otter Creek Township.

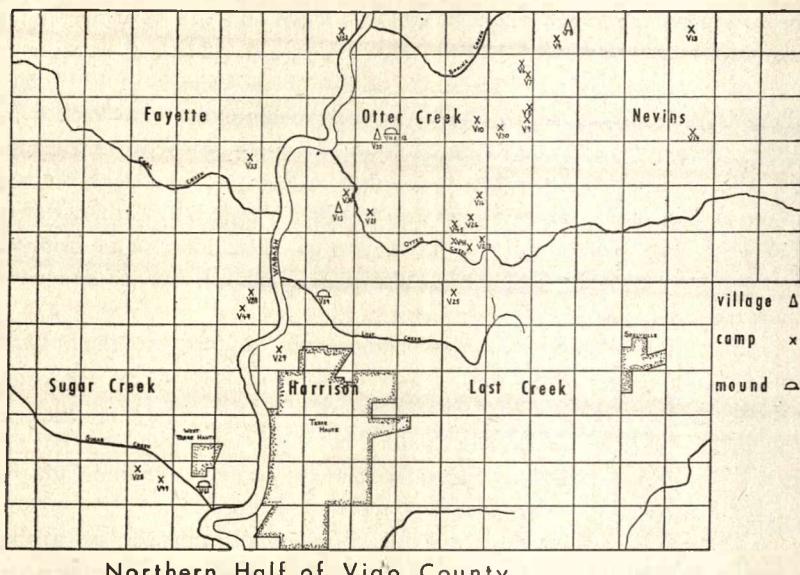
This village is located on a sandy ridge rising from a rich bottom. It is about 300 feet long and ranges from 50 to 100 feet in width. The material found was quite scattered but sufficient to indicate extensive habitation. Two sherds of Marion Thick (an Early Woodland pottery type)⁶ were recovered. These were cord marked on both interior and

³ Bradsby, H. C., *History of Vigo County, Indiana* (S. B. Nelson & Co., Chicago, 1891), 70-71.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Helmen, Vernon R., "The Cultural Affiliations and Relationships of the Oliver Farm Site, Marion County, Indiana." Unpublished Master's thesis, Indiana University, Bloomington.



Northern Half of Vigo County

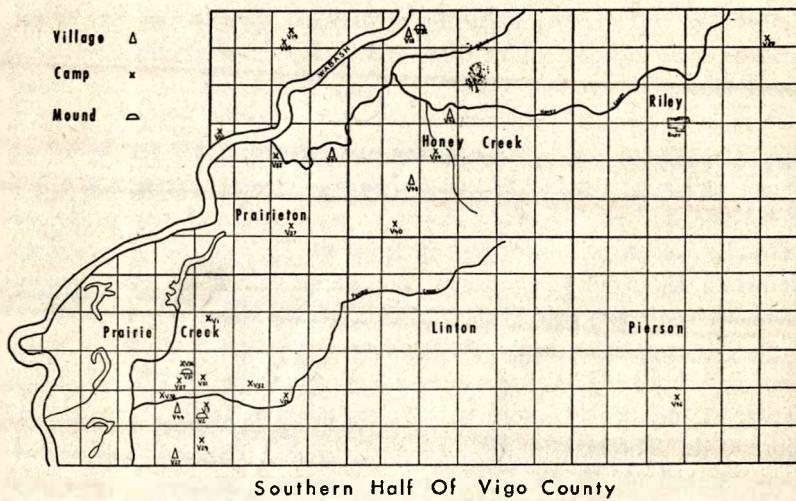
exterior and coarsely tempered. Three additional sherds are probably Marion Thick but are split and eroded so badly that no identification can be made. Three good examples of Havana Plain (an early Middle Woodland pottery type) sherds were found.⁷ These are the only identifiable types from the site. Other sherds fall into three categories: the first (9 sherds), made up of grit-tempered, cord-marked, medium-thick pottery with fine tempering particles. The decoration of this pottery consists of a few random incisions over the cord markings. The paste does not fall within the Havana series range and the closest comparable types are ones from Greene County⁸ and the Albee Mound.⁹ This group very probably represents the period of transition between Middle and Late Woodland. The second category consists of very thin, grit-tempered, cord-marked and smooth sherds (4 examples) that closely resemble sherds of the Tonti Component¹⁰ at Starved Rock State Park, Illinois. If these sherds are related to those of the Tonti Component, they are Late Woodland,

⁷ Havana paste with a smooth surface.

⁸ Black, Glenn A., *The Archaeology of Greene County (Indiana History Bulletin*, X, no. 5, February, 1933), plate 28, figure b.

⁹ MacLean, J. Arthur, *Excavation of Albee Mound 1926-1927 (Indiana History Bulletin*, VIII, no. 4, January, 1931).

¹⁰ Orr, Kenneth G., "Summary statements of the present status of archaeological research in the Starved Rock Area, La Salle County, Illinois," MS, 1949, University of Chicago, pp. 21-22.



almost, if not on the European contact level. The third category includes all unidentifiable fragments (10 examples) that do not fall within any previously described category. These unidentifiable sherds are all grit tempered.

The nonpottery material includes a three-quarter-grooved ax; a crude bell pestle; 2 broad trianguloid, corner-notched projectile points; a stemmed bunt; a stemmed and bifurcated base projectile point; a crude chert drill or perforator; 2 thumbnail scrapers; 3 flake knives; 18 chert blanks, broken blades, and retouched flakes; and a fragment of mussel shell. Fire-cracked and discolored fragments of stone were common on the site, as were flint chips.

The evidence available points to at least three occupations, each probably distinct; Early, Middle, and Late Woodland. The occupational debris evidenced on the surface of the site did not indicate intensive or long continued, but a light and discontinuous occupation. The advantageous position of the sand ridge rising from the surrounding bottom lands undoubtedly would attract the aboriginal inhabitants of the region, although the size of the ridge precluded the establishment of a very large community.

Vigo 15, Section 27, T 13 N, R 9 W, Otter Creek Township

I have called this site a village even though there is little pottery to be found on the surface and few clues as to the extent of the occupied area. Located on the east side of the Wabash River, the site occupies a sand bluff which the wind has shaped into numerous small dunes and

"blow outs." The constant shifting of the sand has uncovered many fire-cracked rock fragments, flint chips and spalls, a few implements, and a small amount of pottery (along with the remains of beer and "coke" bottles, rusty nails, and tin cans).

The pottery found by the survey party consisted of a few split body sherds and several neck and rim fragments. This pottery was grit tempered and cord marked, and possessed a small added rim strip that was vertically notched with stick-edge impressions. The neck of one vessel was decorated with similar impressions. This pottery resembles closely Summit Cord Marked¹¹ and Late Woodland pottery from the Oliver Farm Site.¹² Pottery from this site in the W. E. Ouweneel collection is similar to that described above and belongs to the Late Woodland period. The Ouweneel collection included 295 cord-marked, grit-tempered body sherds and 17 rim sherds. The majority of these rim sherds were similar to Summit Cord Marked and Greene Cord Marked;¹³ however, two of the seventeen are sharply angled and resemble Langford Cord Marked¹⁴ very closely.

The projectile points found at this site also indicate Late Middle and Late Woodland occupancy. Of the six found by the survey, four are side notched and two are large thin triangular forms. Two side-notched bunts were also recovered. The nonceramic artifacts found by Mr. Ouweneel at this site present an entirely different picture from that of the pottery. This material includes two grooved limestone plummets, an unfinished rectangular "banner stone," a squared sandstone chip, a limestone sphere, and an engraved limestone fragment which Mr. Ouweneel stated had been examined by McKern of the Milwaukee Public Museum and identified as a mnemonic stone. This nonceramic material points to an Archaic or very early Early Woodland occupation and, with the evidence of the pottery, would indicate at least two distinct occupations.

The wealth of flint chips and spalls, rejects, and cores found at this site might possibly indicate a workshop; however, the dune and "blow out" formations and the concentrations of artifacts and chips as well as contemporary debris in the lowest parts of the sand formations would point to differential sorting by the action of wind and rain. The fine sand particles were blown about by the wind leaving an even more concentrated

¹¹ Helmen, Vernon R., "Preliminary Report of Mocassin Bluff Site, Berrien County, Michigan." MS, 1951, in Ceramic Repository for the Eastern United States, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

¹² Griffin, James B., *The Fort Ancient Aspect* (University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 1943), Plate CLIV, figure 4.

¹³ Helmen, "Preliminary Report on Mocassin Bluff Site."

¹⁴ Griffin, John W., "The Upper Mississippi Occupations of the Fisher Site, Will County, Illinois." MS, 1946. Master's thesis, University of Chicago.

deposit of the heavier material, mostly artifactual, in the lower portions of the dunes and at the bottom of the "blow outs."

Vigo 27, Section 32, T 10 N, R 10 W, Prairie Creek Township

This site, small and thinly occupied, was located on a narrow sand ridge that rose out of the Wabash River bottoms and ran parallel to the river. Nearly all objects larger than pea-size pebbles found here can be attributed to the occupational activities of the aboriginal inhabitants. All boulders found on the site exhibit pecking marks or fire action.

The pottery from this site, consisting entirely of body sherds, is finely grit or sand tempered, cord marked, and badly eroded. I would hesitate to classify it as other than Middle Woodland.

The chipped implements are of great interest. Some of the material is quite exotic with one large spall tentatively identified as Flint Ridge, Ohio, flint and several chips and flake knives of the familiar Harrison County blue-gray flint. Flake knives were the most common artifact found. Two large trianguloid blades also were picked up but no projectile points were collected. A fragment of a clay pipe bowl of European manufacture was also found.

This is a small site and gives indication of but short habitation during the Middle Woodland period. It is surprising that any occupation occurred, for the surface of the site is only a few feet above the level of the bottoms and spring floods undoubtedly made habitation hazardous, to say the least.

Vigo 35, Section 14, T 13 N, R 9 W, Otter Creek Township

Vigo 35 is one of the largest sites in the survey area and is probably associated with the Modisett mound group. The mounds follow the bluff line east of the Wabash River and the village area is just east of the mounds.

The pottery from this site, all grit tempered, does not present as complete a picture as desired. Only 4 small rim sherds were picked up: 2 with flat lips, notched on the inner edge, and 2 that have rounded lips. Of the latter, one has a cord-marked surface and one a smooth surface. The smooth-surfaced sherd is deeply incised just below the lip. A series of 15 smooth body sherds can possibly be classed as Havana Plain although the temper is more sandy and finer than that of specimens from the Illinois Valley sites. Three sherds are marked with a strip-wrapped paddle. They resemble Madisonville Grooved Paddle¹⁵ but, of course, are

¹⁵ Griffin, *The Fort Ancient Aspect*, 349.

not shell tempered and the surface finish, while superficially resembling that formed by use of a grooved paddle, was caused more probably by the application of a paddle wrapped with strips of either leather or some vegetable fiber—bark or withe—hence the term strip marked. The great majority of the sherds from this site are cord marked, or cord marked and smoothed.

The nonpottery artifactual assemblage is most interesting because of the wide range of types found. A large chipped slate hoe or chopper, 16.5 mm. long, 6.5 mm. wide, and 2 mm. thick was the only artifact of its type from the site. Other slate objects included a broken gorget with a bi-concave perforation; a partially ground slate object that was broken and unidentifiable, and several slate chips. Part of a broken celt was found, as well as a large sandstone boulder that was ground to a concave surface on one side and subsequently deeply pitted on both upper and lower surfaces. Bi-concave pitted hammerstones occurred and 2 were collected by the survey. Chert artifacts included 4 stemmed projectile points, 2 side-notched small trianguloid points, 3 broken blades, and 42 retouched flakes. Several bird bone fragments were picked up at the site, as well as a large nodule of ochreous hematite.

This site probably extends from Middle into Late Woodland times. Most of the pottery is what one would expect from a Woodland site of this period. The presence of a strip-marked pottery is interesting and will be treated at greater length in another section of this report.

The presence of the mounds on this site presents the problem of mound-village site association. Since no material is known from the mounds, it is impossible to state definitely that the cultural materials recovered from the village site represent the debris of the people who built the mounds, although I feel that this is the case. The placement of the mounds and the problem of their affiliation will be treated at greater length in the section of this report that deals with mounds and earthworks.

Vigo 42, Section 16, T 11 N, R 9 W, Honey Creek Township

This large site is located on the south bank of Honey Creek and covers at least two acres of ground, although the exact dimensions were not determinable.

The pottery from this site is representative of a Middle Woodland occupation. One rim sherd is cord marked with an insloping lip; the paste is sandy but the general appearance is of an Havana Cord Marked sherd. Two other rim sherds are cord marked but lack the insloping lip; otherwise, they too have the appearance of Havana Cord Marked even to a more coarsely tempered paste. The remainder of the rim sherds (6) are

cord marked or cord marked and smoothed. Three of them are notched on the inner lip with cord-marked and smoothed exteriors. Their paste is sandy. One other rim is cord marked with an added rim strip and the remaining two rims are cord marked with rounded lips.

The body sherds from this site fall into four groupings. One group consists of 70 grit-tempered, strip-wrapped-paddle decorated sherds. A second large group is made up of grit-tempered, cord-marked, and cord-marked and smoothed sherds. Thirteen smooth-finished sherds, also grit tempered, comprise the third group; while the fourth division is represented by 2 clay-tempered, cord-marked sherds.

The projectile points found at this site include 2 side-notched forms, 3 stemmed, and 2 large crude triangular points. Many flake knives and retouched flakes occur as well as 11 large flint blanks that have the appearance of being roughly shaped from cherty glacial boulders. A small unworked bar of ocherous hematite was found; also a large block of pecked and scarred banded slate.

This site is very probably one that was occupied during Middle Woodland and early Late Woodland times. The presence of pottery comparable to Illinois Valley Middle Woodland forms as exemplified by the types related to Havana Cord Marked, and other types related to Summit Cord Marked and Greene Cord Marked, such as the rim-stripped rim sherd and the rim sherds with notched inner lips, reflects the Middle Woodland influence of sites in adjacent portions of Indiana. The presence in large quantities of the strip-marked pottery is indicative of Late Woodland occupation.

Vigo 43, Section 24, T 11 N, R 10 W, Prairieton Township

On a sandy bluff south of Honey Creek a concentration of flint artifacts and pottery fragments indicated a habitation site. This concentration extended over an area approximately 150 feet by 60 feet with the long axis following the crest of the bluff. Potsherds were not numerous although enough were found to indicate the presence of a Middle Woodland period village. Two rim sherds of the Greene and Summit Cord Marked types were found, as well as 12 grit-tempered, cord-marked body sherds. Four body sherds, smooth surfaced and cell tempered, were also found. These can only be called cell tempered for it is not known whether the original tempering material was finely pulverized shell or limestone. In either case, weak acid ground water has leached out all tempering particles leaving only their impressions in the form of cells. Three stemmed and 2 side-notched projectile points, all broken, were found on the site. Ten flake knives, 5 end scrapers, 4 gravers formed from very finely re-

touched flakes and many retouched flakes of unspecialized form also occurred. Ground stone artifacts are represented by a large hand muller and a pitted and slightly ground hammerstone.

This evidence, meager as it is, points to a Middle Woodland occupation. The collection from the site is too small to indicate more, although the cell-tempered sherds are cause for speculation.

Vigo 44, Section 29, T 10 N, R 10 W, Prairie Creek Township

This village is located on a large sand rise that parallels the bluffs on the east side of the Wabash River but is located about 200 yards out in the bottoms from those bluffs. The top of this rise includes several acres of land and is but 100 feet from a branch of Prairie Creek. The village site is large but for the most part in pasture land so that its actual size could not be determined.

The pottery from this site is very interesting—at least five recognizable types representative of the Early and Middle Woodland periods were found on the surface.

One body sherd of Marion Thick, a diagnostic type for Early Woodland, occurred. Fifteen sherds of Havana Plain, 3 sherds of Havana Cord Marked, and 2 sherds of Netler Crescent Stamped¹⁶ (a rim and a body sherd) were found, all belonging to the early Middle Woodland period. One rim and 8 body sherds of Greene Cord Marked were also recovered. This type belongs to the late Middle Woodland period. One cell-tempered, smooth-surfaced sherd was possibly limestone tempered and, if so, belongs to the Hopewell Ware series. Thirty body sherds, all grit tempered, are too small or eroded to classify as to type. Nonpottery artifacts from the site consist of a large pitted anvil stone, 3 bi-pitted hammerstones, a deeply worn sandstone abrader, 3 corner-notched, 2 side-notched, and 7 broken projectile points; 2 expanding base drills, 2 small scrapers, 5 crude blades or blanks, 5 flake graters, 7 flake knives, 2 fragments of bone of indeterminant age or association, and many retouched flakes and spalls.

This site is possibly associated with a large artificially modified knoll known as the "Schoolhouse Mound" a quarter of a mile to the east. The pottery and stone work from this site are all indicative of Early and Middle Woodland occupation. Marion Thick pottery undoubtedly contributed heavily to the early Havana Ware. Were it not for the distinctive inner surface modifications of Marion Thick, it would be difficult to

¹⁶ Cole, Faye-Cooper, and Deuel, Thorne, *Rediscovering Illinois. Archaeological Explorations in and around Fulton County* (University of Chicago Press, 1937), fig. 7, nos. 4 and 5; fig. 9, nos. 9, 10, 19, and 20; fig. 10, no. 8; Plate II, no. 3.

separate it from some of the Havana Plain and Havana Cord Marked pottery. The presence of these three types as well as Netler Stamped and Greene Cord Marked probably indicates a stratified site, for Greene Cord Marked occurs late in the Middle Woodland sequence and is separated from Marion Thick by most of the Middle Woodland types. It is possible that a developmental series from Early through Middle Woodland exists at the site connecting these two types.

Vigo 48, Section 29, T 11 N, R 9 W, Honey Creek Township

A few artifacts widely scattered on a sandy bluff overlooking a branch of Honey Creek revealed a surprising variety of artifact types and a lengthy span of occupation at this site.

The pottery is of extreme interest for several reasons. A rim sherd, thick, heavily tempered with coarse grit, thinned at the lip, fabric marked on the interior and pinched-over cord marks on the exterior, is the first example (that I know of) of a Marion Thick sherd with pinched decoration. Such a decorative finish gives additional evidence of the close relationship of Marion Thick and Fayette Thick, for Griffin has reported pinched-surface decorated sherds in his type description of Fayette Thick.¹⁷ This sherd is definitely Early Woodland.

Other sherds from the site all belong to the Late Woodland period, however, and consist of 19 thin grit- and sand-tempered, cord-marked sherds; and 4 grit- and sand-tempered strip-marked sherds. These are all body sherds. The projectile points from the site tend to bear out the picture shown by the pottery, for 1 corner-notched and 4 side-notched projectile points of Middle Woodland type were found as well as three thin triangular projectile points typical of Late Woodland. Most surprising was the presence of the broken base of a large blade that exhibited a half-inch wide longitudinal flake scar extending from the thinned base to the break, a distance of about one inch, and an abortive attempt to form a similar channel on the opposite side consisting of three small flake scars ending in hinge fractures. This is in no way to be interpreted as indicating a specimen of folsomoid proportions for the squared base indicates a thick and relatively wide ovate blade.

Other artifacts include 3 pitted hammerstones, 2 large blanks or "turtlebacks," fragments of red ochre, a fragment of long bone, and many retouched flakes.

¹⁷ Griffin, James B., "Adena Village Site Pottery from Fayette County, Kentucky," in *The University of Kentucky Reports in Anthropology and Archaeology*, V, no. 7 (November, 1943), pp. 667-72.

This site was very probably inhabited by several different cultural groups during the periods extending from Early through Late Woodland. Strata trenches and test pits would probably indicate at least two distinct occupation levels, perhaps more.

Vigo 18, Section 5, T 11 N, R 9 W, Honey Creek Township

This village was discovered and examined in quite a different manner from the villages previously recorded in this report, the greatest difference being that subsurface material was obtained and definite associations could be worked out.

The site was discovered during a surface survey of the United States Federal Penitentiary grounds at Terre Haute. The survey had been extended to the penitentiary grounds through the courtesy of Warden Joseph Overlade. The first indication of a village was seen on ground that had been bulldozed in preparation for the extension of a railroad spur into the Federal property. Just inside the northeast boundary of the Penitentiary and on the crest of the Wabash River bluffs, the humus and sod had been removed to a depth of from 1 to 3 feet. Sterile yellow sand formed the new surface, but this sand was discolored in certain areas. Investigation showed that the discoloration was caused by ash deposits of aboriginal origin and, in three instances, by the lower 1 to 3 inches of refuse pits. At the edge of this area, along the shoulder of State Road 63, a large refuse pit with only the top 3 to 6 inches disturbed by the construction work, was located (hereafter called Pit I). A small island of undisturbed earth remained in the center of the work area, too; and in the edge of this undisturbed area another pit was located that, while of unknown original depth, was still undisturbed for approximately 13 inches below the exposed surface (hereafter called Pit II).

Several members of the prison work crew at the site had picked up stone artifacts during the progress of their work and these were presented to the survey. With the permission of Warden Overlade, the survey recovered as much material as was possible while the construction was in progress. Since the site was scheduled to be bulldozed to a greater depth, the first salvage work was done in the area already bulldozed and in Pit II.

The ash beds proved to be just that—deposits of ash and sand that contained only a very few small grit-tempered sherds and a few flint chips. These beds were difficult to measure because the ash was everywhere interspersed with lenses of sand so that no clear line of demarcation was apparent. In general, the beds followed the line of the bluff for approximately 150 feet. They struck the author as being the accumulated ash of many fires built over a period of years, with drift sand inter-

mingling during times of nonoccupancy. Outside the area of the ash beds, the bottom two to three inches of four refuse pits could be observed. These four pits were separated from the edge of the river bluff by the ash beds. The pits appeared to have been cylindrical and about two feet in diameter; the bottoms were rounded. Material from these pits consisted of fire-cracked rocks, ash, charcoal, grit-tempered and cord-marked sherds, animal bone, and chert chips.

Pit II was located in this area and was much less disturbed than the four pit bases just referred to. This pit was approximately circular with a diameter of 23 inches. The remaining undisturbed portion proved to be 13 inches in depth with a rounded bottom. At least 12 inches of soil had been removed from this area so it is impossible to say how deep this pit had originally been. The material from this pit was removed in 2-inch levels to determine if a sequence could be established, but all evidence points to the homogeneity of the material and it will be so treated in this report.

The pottery of Pit II was of great interest since large rim portions of several vessels were recovered as well as body sherds from several more vessels. These sherds were mixed in the pit and the several sherds comprising an individual rim were recovered at different depths. The restored rims exhibited two basically different surface finishes—cord marked and strip marked. One large rim, strip marked, had been further modified while the clay was still plastic so that the parallel strip impressions had been almost obliterated and the surface presented a dimpled appearance with, here and there, the very distinct impressions of a twisted cord. This vessel had a high straight neck, a flat lip notched on the inner edge, and an oriface diameter of approximately twelve inches. The indication is that this was a very large vessel with a capacity of about eight quarts. The paste of this vessel is fine and compact with a sparse admixture of medium grit temper. Coil breaks are observable and the interior exhibits scraping marks. Another restored rim, also finished with a strip-wrapped paddle, is unmodified other than for the surface finish. Paste characteristics are the same as on the previously described sherd as are the probable capacity and form. A third restored rim represents a much smaller cord-marked vessel with no distinct neck and an insloping rim. The lip is flat and undecorated, the paste compact with a generous amount of sand temper. The cord marks are fine and not deeply impressed. This vessel was probably "coconut" shaped with a subconoidal base. A very small cord-marked rim which is embellished with a rim point also occurred as did another small thin plain rim with deep impressions on the inner lip giving the impression of a scalloped edge when viewed from above. Other sherds from the pit came from quite large portions of five other distinct

vessels and belonged to 3 strip-marked vessels and 2 cord-marked vessels. One of the cord-marked vessels was very similar in paste and depth of cord marking to the third rim described in the previous rim descriptions. The other cord-marked vessel was grit tempered and cord marked by a paddle which was wrapped with parallel cords and applied to the vessel with sufficient force to deeply impress the cords in the clay. The three strip-marked vessels vary in the degree of care exercised in the application of the paddle and the care with which the paddle was wrapped. All three were grit tempered and of coiled construction but with compact paste. Several hundred cord-marked, plain, and strip-marked sherds, not definitely assignable to any of the vessels just described, were also found in this pit.

Nonpottery artifacts from this pit consisted of a sandstone abrader that was hollowed on one surface from use and deeply grooved on the opposite surface and edges; the tip of a large projectile point of indeterminate form (the only chipped-flint artifact found, although eight flint chips were recovered); and one fragment of mammal long bone and fire-cracked rock fragments. No sign of European trade material was found in this pit.

Pit I presents quite a different picture from that of Pit II. Much more of Pit I was available for excavation and the material recovered was remarkably different from that found in Pit II. Again, as in the case of Pit II, the material from Pit I was removed in 2-inch levels to determine whether or not the pit was stratified. However, the discovery of a portion of a carved bone pin in the top three inches of the pit and another portion of the same pin in the lowest level indicated that the pit contents were relatively homogeneous. Added to the separate location of parts of the same pin was the fact that trade material was found at all levels of the pit.

The pottery found in this pit falls into three categories: First; a cord-marked, grit-tempered, very thin ware (some body sherds as thin as 1 mm.) which has a straight high rim, smooth rounded lip, smoothed neck, and cord-marked body. The vessels from which these sherds came were very large. Forty-eight sherds of this type were recovered of which only one was a rim. This pottery resembles closely that found at Starved Rock State Park, Illinois, representing the Tonti Component. The Tonti Component is a contact component which probably dates from the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.¹⁸

¹⁸ Orr, "Summary statement of the present status of archaeological research in the Starved Rock Area, LaSalle County, Illinois."

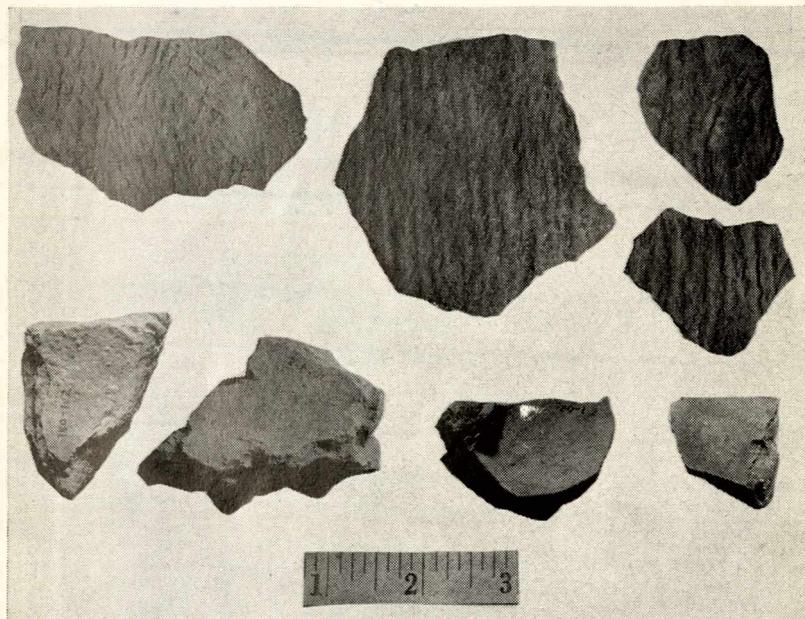


Plate I. ARTIFACTS FROM VIGO 18, PIT I. *Top*: Thin, Late Woodland Body Sherds, resembling Tonti Component Pottery. *Bottom*: Unidentified thick ware.

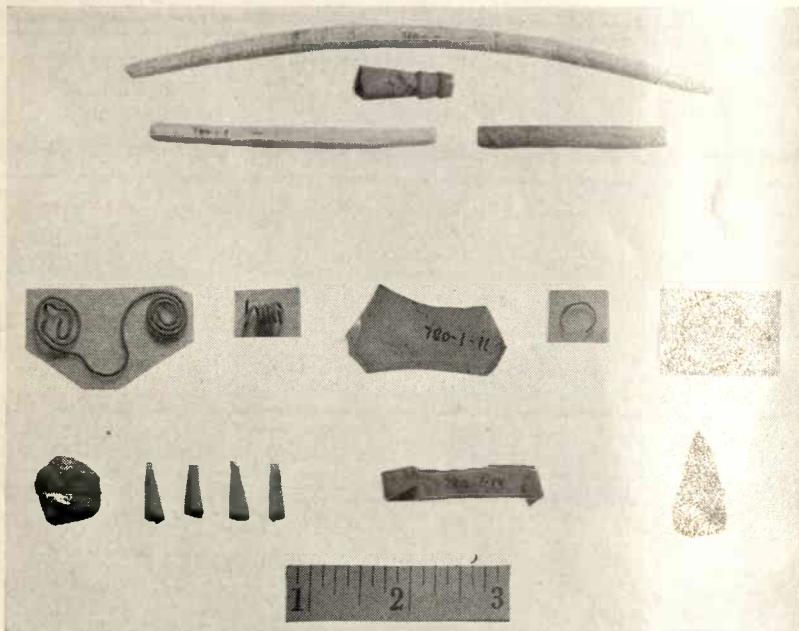


Plate II. ARTIFACTS FROM VIGO 18, PIT I. *Top*: Bone and Antler Artifacts. *Middle*: Brass wire and fragment of trade mirror. *Bottom* (left to right): Impacted Lead Ball; 4 Brass Tinklers; Brass Strip; and Brass Projectile Point.

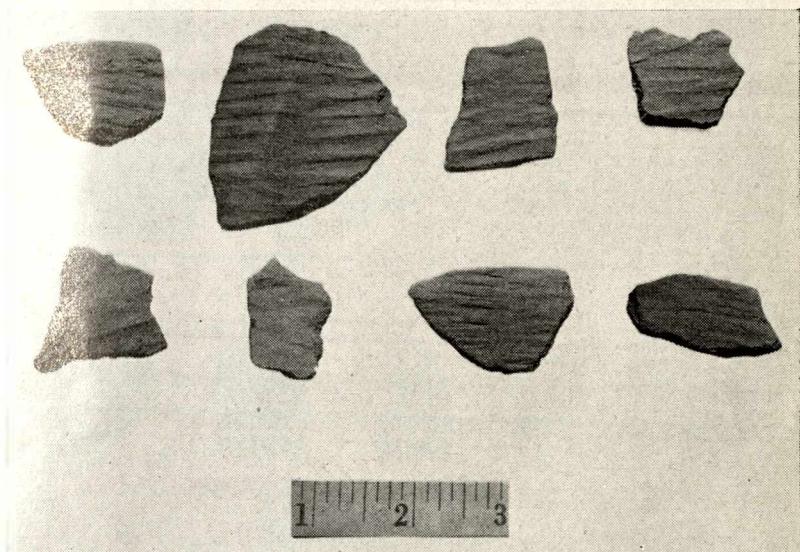


Plate III. STRIP-MARKED BODY SHERDS FROM VIGO 42.

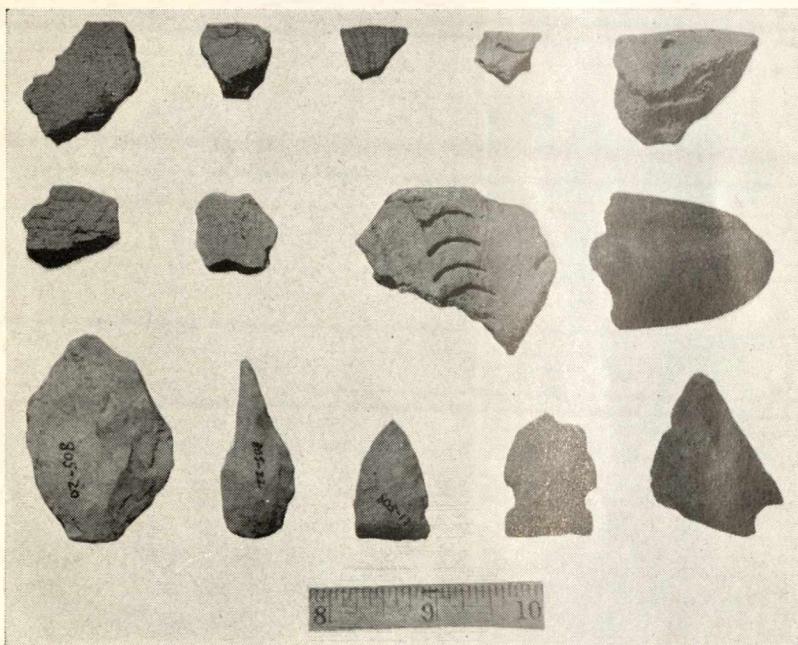


Plate IV. ARTIFACTS FROM VIGO 44. *Top*: Middle Woodland Rim Sherds. *Middle*: Body Sherds and Sandstone Abrader. The sherd second from the left is Netler Crescent Stamped. *Bottom*: Chipped Artifacts.

A second type of pottery from Pit I consists of eleven sherds, one rim and ten body sherds. These sherds are like nothing I have seen before and resemble nothing included in the Ceramic Repository for the Eastern United States at the University of Michigan. They are thick, sparsely grit tempered, smooth surfaced, crudely made with a very contorted paste, and are quite friable. The one rim sherd exhibits a rounded lip and indicates that the vessel from which it came was in the form of a bowl. Interior color is blue-gray and the exterior is salmon pink. One basal sherd shows traces of red pigment on the interior surface. The relationship or origin of this pottery is not known.

The third type of pottery from this pit consists of three strip-marked body sherds. These are grit tempered, strip marked on the exterior and smooth on the interior. They are possibly related to Madisonville Grooved Paddle and, if so, represent an immediate precontact culture. Their presence in a contact pit can be accounted for when it is noted that Pit II contained no contact material but over 50 per cent of the sherds found in it were strip marked. Thus, if a people making strip-marked pottery occupied this site in the immediate precontact period and a people making cord-marked pottery occupied it during early contact times, the accidental inclusion of three strip-marked sherds from the village debris of a precontact village in a post-contact pit is understandable.

Nonpottery aboriginal material from this pit consists of: 1 antler pin $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches long rounded in each end; 1 bird bone tube $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and polished; 1 antler "drift" $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and scraped round; 1 broken antler "drift" 1 inch long and carbonized; 2 small triangular projectile points; and 1 carved head of a bone pin that is in three fragments, one of which is carbonized.

European material from the pit includes: 9 fragments of brass wire; 6 brass strips, none more than 3 inches long; 1 badly eroded iron oval object that may be a chain link; 1 iron knife blade in three fragments, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches long; 4 fragments of unidentified iron; 1 brass hasp or lock, badly battered and cut; 1 triangular brass projectile point with the edges ground sharp; 1 "wire wound" trade bead; 1 dark blue trade bead; 2 tube beads; and 36 seed beads; 4 brass cones probably used as tinklers; 2 unidentified brass fragments; a broken mirror in 17 fragments some of which still have a trace of backing on them; 2 glass bottle fragments; 1 impacted lead ball; and 1 leather knot from the interior of one of the brass cones. The badly eroded iron oval object, if not a chain link, might be the steel for a flint and steel "strike-a-light" outfit.

Much deer bone was included in the pit and at least five individuals (scapula and mandible count) are represented. Shellfish were represented by the following species: *Tritogonia verrucosa* (Raf), *Ligumia recta latis-*

sima (Raf), *Elliptio dilatatus* (Raf), *Actinoaias carinata gibba* (Barnes), *Quadrula cylindrica* (Say), *Obovaria subrotunda* (Raf), *Quadrula pustulosa* (Lea), *Triodopsis zaleta* (Binney), and *Pleurocera canaliculatum undulatum* (Say).¹⁹

The floral remains from Pit I are represented by two charred specimens; one cotyledon of a bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.); and a broken hazelnut (*Corylus americana* Walt.)

Since it is not known at what time European contact first reached this portion of the Wabash River Valley, it is impossible to say what ethnic group is represented by the material in this pit. At the time the United States was concluding treaties with the Indians of this region the Miami were acknowledged as the paramount tribe; however, during the Iroquois Wars, many tribes took refuge in Indiana and Illinois and any of them could have inhabited this site for a period of time.

When Pit I was completely excavated, it measured 3½ feet in depth from the new surface and thus was probably almost four feet deep when measured from the original surface. The diameter was three feet and the base was shallowly rounded.

Primarily from the evidence of Pit I and Pit II it is possible to say that this site was occupied just before and during early contact with Europeans. Pit II represents the immediate pre-contact occupation at the time that strip-marked pottery and a smaller amount of the thin Tonti-like cord-marked pottery were made. Pit I represents the occupation after contact, the manufacture of strip-marked pottery having ceased. The vigor of the aboriginal culture at this time was great, for, even with the variety of European artifacts represented, work in bone, antler, and chert and the manufacture of pottery continue. The presence of the thick, crude, and unidentified pottery in this pit poses a problem, for it could be a sign of decay in the art of pottery making or it could be only a freak or make-shift piece possibly even constructed by a white trader.

The presence of a charred bean probably represents the agricultural activities of the native inhabitants for it is not likely that dried beans were being traded by the Whites at the time of the first contacts.

CAMP SITES

The camp sites located by the survey vary greatly in size and amount of surface material present. One fact stands out in any review of these sites and that is the tendency for those in one drainage area to closely

¹⁹ Determined by Dr. C. Bruce Lee, University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology.

resemble each other in surface material, site size, and site placement. Since this resemblance is not affected by the time of survey or the manner of collection of material remains, these sites will not be dealt with in the sequence that they were recorded by the survey, but in groups primarily associated with drainage areas.

Many of the sites recorded as camps are represented by very small surface collections, and the evidence available is too meager to offer any basis for a statement regarding chronological or temporal placement. Such sites will be listed in this report, along with a list of the artifacts collected on their surfaces. Where there is sufficient evidence for conclusions that consist of more than guesses, such conclusions will be given.

Otter Creek Drainage

The Otter Creek drainage includes all of Otter Creek and Nevins townships and, roughly, the northern quarter of Harrison and Lost Creek townships. Excluded from the Otter Creek drainage is the east bank of the Wabash River up to and including a portion of the second terrace of that river, an area that shows a different cultural history from that of the main Otter Creek drainage. The sixteen camp sites located in the Otter Creek drainage are listed below, and with each is recorded the artifacts collected on the surface by the survey.

Vigo 4, Section 4, T 13 N, R 8 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Series of three interconnected sand rises in the portion of the old glacial Wabash Valley now drained by Otter Creek.

Artifacts:

- 1 Marion Thick pinched-over, cord-marked body sherd
- 1 anvil or nut stone, deeply pitted
- 2 hammerstones, pitted
- 1 celt, subrectangular, very thin
- 2 corner-notched projectile points
- 3 side-notched projectile points
- 1 stemmed projectile point
- 6 broken projectile points
- 1 side-notched end scraper
- 2 stemmed end scrapers
- 8 thumbnail scrapers
- 3 flake end scrapers
- 4 flake knives
- 2 flake gravers
- 29 cores, spalls, and retouched flakes
- 1 human molar tooth
- 2 bone fragments, human (?)
- x burned stone fragments, flint and chert chips

This site has been classed as a camp because of the presence of but one sherd of pottery. It could easily be a village site, but as stated before, the classification of a site in no way affects the material found on it. The Marion Thick sherd indicates a very early occupation in Early Woodland times. The projectile point types in no way contradict this view and the celt occurs early in the Hopewell sequence, so that the only possible conclusion, based on the material present, is to class this site as Early to Middle Woodland.

Vigo 6, Section 8, T 13 N, R 8 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Sandy rises in the old glacial Wabash Valley. This site is less than half a mile southwest of Vigo 4 and is on the same series of sand rises mentioned for that site.

Artifacts:

- 1 bi-pitted hammerstone
- 1 side-notched projectile point
- 1 side-notched end scraper
- 3 crude blades or blanks
- 2 flake gravers
- 5 bone fragments
- 1 bone fragment, calcined, human (?)
- 15 spalls and retouched flakes
- x flint chips and burned stone fragments

This site presents the same picture as Vigo 4 and, considering the closeness of the two sites, could possibly be an extension of that site. If this is so, Vigo 6 belongs to the Early to Middle Woodland period.

Vigo 7, Section 8, T 13 N, R 8 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Same as Vigo 4 and Vigo 6. This site is about 150 yards southeast of Vigo 6.

Artifacts:

- 1 side-notched projectile point
- 1 banded slate fragment, chipped and ground
- 1 flake knife
- 1 bone fragment
- 10 retouched flakes
- x flint chips

This small site is very probably an extension of Vigo 6; if not an extension, it is possibly a contemporary site. If this is true, and the artifacts recovered indicate this to be the case, the site belongs to the Early to Middle Woodland period.

Vigo 8, Section 17, T 13 N, R 8 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Sand rise approximately one mile south and slightly east of Vigo 7.

Artifacts:

- 2 side-notched projectile points
- 1 stemmed projectile point
- 2 broken projectile points
- 1 ovate blade, small
- 5 blades, broken, large
- 1 stemmed scraper
- 1 flake knife
- 5 spalls or cores
- 6 flake scrapers, incurved edge
- 18 retouched flakes
- 1 ovate scraper
- x flint chips

The artifacts from this site fit very well with those from the sites previously described for the Otter Creek drainage and probably belong to the same time period.

Vigo 9, Section 17, T 13 N, R 8 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Same as Vigo 8. This site is approximately 150 yards northeast of Vigo 8.

Artifacts:

- 3 body sherds, grit tempered, cord marked
- 1 celt, bit only, ground and highly polished
- 1 broken projectile point
- 1 side-notched bunt, shows use as a chisel
- 2 side scrapers
- 2 broken blades, ovate
- 1 flint core
- 1 fragment of calcined bone, human (?)
- 1 fragment of red ochre
- 6 retouched flakes
- 1 flake knife
- 1 horn coral fossil
- x flint chips and burned rock fragments

This site presents a slightly different picture from those previously listed for the Otter Creek drainage. The three body sherds can not be assigned to any specific time period and so are of little help in classifying the site. The nonpottery artifacts fit in very well with the material from other sites in this drainage and it is very probably correct to state that this site belongs to the Middle Woodland period.

Vigo 10, Section 18, T 13 N, R 8 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Sand knoll in the old glacial Wabash River Valley and approximately one mile west of Vigo 8 and Vigo 9.

- Artifacts:
- 1 pestle, cylindrical (schist)
 - 2 side-notched projectile points
 - 1 broken projectile point
 - 4 "turtleback" blanks
 - 1 graver or drill, large
 - 1 side scraper
 - 16 retouched flakes
 - x flint chips and burned rock fragments

Mr. James Ruszler owns a small collection from this site which includes:

- 1 full-grooved ax
- 1 bell pestle
- 1 deeply pitted anvil stone
- 2 side-notched projectile points, Harrison County flint

The material from this site is probably slightly earlier than that from the sites already discussed for the Otter Creek drainage. The presence of the full-grooved ax and the two pestles indicates the possibility of Archaic relationships.

Vigo 13, Section 1, T 13 N, R 8 W, Nevins Township

Terrain: Sand rise on the northwest margin of the old glacial Wabash River Valley.

- Artifacts:
- 1 ground slate object, possibly an unfinished pick-shaped bannerstone
 - 1 stemmed projectile point
 - 1 side-notched projectile point
 - 1 corner-notched projectile point
 - 2 broken projectile points
 - 1 ovate blade
 - 4 flake knives
 - 18 retouched flakes
 - 1 bone fragment, weathered
 - x flint chips and burned rock fragments

This site is possibly as old as the site previously described, Vigo 10. The occurrence of the ground slate object could indicate an Archaic relationship. The other artifacts fit in very well with the other Otter Creek drainage site material.

Vigo 14, Section 13, T 13 N, R 8 W, Nevins Township

Terrain: Low sandy knoll rising from the marshy upper valley of the north branch of Otter Creek two and one half miles south of Vigo 13.

Artifacts:

- 1 wedge-shaped hand muller
- 1 stemmed projectile point
- 1 side-notched projectile point
- 2 broken projectile points
- 1 broken drill
- 2 stemmed scrapers
- 2 thumbnail scrapers
- 1 ovate blade, broken
- 10 blanks, large, crude
- 21 retouched flakes
- 2 mammal teeth
- x flint chips and burned rock fragments

The material from this site agrees closely with material from the other sites in this drainage and is probably of the same time period.

Vigo 16, Section 30, T 13 N, R 8 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Clay-sand ridge a few rods east of Cox Ditch and two miles south of Vigo 10.

Artifacts:

- 4 trianguloid blades, large
- 4 broken blades, large
- 1 blade, base section only, thin, trianguloid, large
- 7 retouched flakes
- 1 side scraper
- 6 flake scrapers
- 2 thumbnail scrapers, bit of one shows polish from much use
- x flint chips and burned rock fragments

This site is similar to the rest of the sites in the drainage and probably belongs to the same Early to Middle Woodland time period.

Vigo 21, Section 26, T 13 N, R 9 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Edge of bluff overlooking Otter Creek, sandy, now in pasture.

Artifacts:

- 1 broken projectile point
- 1 retouched flake
- x flint chips

Vigo 23, Section 31, T 13 N, R 8 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Sandy-loam bluff overlooking Otter Creek, one mile south of Vigo 16.

Artifacts: 1 triangular blade
1 stemmed end scraper
2 retouched flakes
x flint chips and burned rock fragments

Vigo 25, Section 6, T 12 N, R 8 W, Lost Creek Township

Terrain: Sandy loam bluff at the edge of the uplands that overlook the Wabash Valley and bottom lands.

Artifacts: 1 sandstone abrader, also used as a hammerstone
1 hand muller
1 stemmed projectile point, very small
1 broken blade, ovate
1 end scraper, stemmed
2 long bone fragments
x flint chips and spalls

Vigo 26, Section 30, T 13 N, R 8 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Two small sand-clay terraces east of Cox Ditch, with the greatest concentration on the lower terrace.

Artifacts: 1 body sherd, cord marked, grit tempered
1 hammerstone, pitted
1 stemmed scraper
2 retouched flakes
1 fragment of long bone
x flint chips

Even though a potsherd was found at this site, the appearance of the site itself and the distribution of material on it indicate only slight occupation. This site probably is Middle Woodland.

Vigo 30, Section 17, T 13 N, R 8 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Sandy rise approximately three quarters of a mile southeast of Vigo 8.

Artifacts: 1 stemmed projectile point
2 retouched flakes
1 fragment of human skull
2 mammal bone fragments
x flint chips

Vigo 41, Section 31, T 13 N, R 8 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Sandy bluff two hundred yards north of Otter Creek.

Artifacts:

- 1 celt, broken
- 1 ovate blade
- 2 side-notched projectile points
- 2 broken projectile points
- 3 plano-convex end scrapers
- 10 retouched flakes
- 1 blank, large, crude
- 1 human skull fragment
- 1 *ostrya* spp. shell fragment
- x flint chips and burned rock fragments

This site fits very well with the other sites of the drainage belonging to the Early to Middle Woodland period.

Vigo 45, Section 30, T 13 N, R 8 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Clay-sand bluff 50 feet north of a small branch of Otter Creek, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile northeast of Vigo 41.

Artifacts:

- 1 bi-pitted hammerstone
- 1 side-notched projectile point
- 1 ovate blade, broken
- 7 retouched flakes
- x flint chips

The camp sites of the Otter Creek drainage have one important trait in common: all sixteen of them are located on sand or sandy-clay rises. Clay and gravel knolls and the rich loamy flatlands of the valleys were seemingly completely avoided. It is, of course, logical that well-drained high ground be chosen for habitation sites. The camps of the Otter Creek drainage are peculiar, however, in their strict adherence to sandy areas.

It should be noted that the tendency is for the camp sites in this drainage to belong to the Middle Woodland or an earlier period. The complete absence of any small triangular points is especially noteworthy, since this type of point was found in other parts of Vigo County and is usually indicative of Late Woodland—Mississippi occupation.

Honey Creek Drainage

The Honey Creek drainage consists of the area south of the Otter Creek drainage and includes portions of Harrison and Lost Creek townships and all of Riley, Honey Creek, and Prairieton townships. The

Wabash River margin is again excluded, an area that will be dealt with later. The five sites listed below comprise the camp sites recorded for the Honey Creek drainage.

Vigo 37, Section 35, T 11 N, R 10 W, Prairieton Township

Terrain: This site is located on a sandy knoll approximately 150 yards south of a branch of Honey Creek.

Artifacts: 1 triangular projectile point, thin
1 hammerstone, pitted, quartzite
1 flake scraper
x flint chips

The occurrence of the thin triangular point on this site would indicate occupancy during the late Woodland period.

Vigo 39, Section 21, T 11 N, R 9 W, Honey Creek Township

Terrain: Low loamy terrace at the foot of the south bluffs at the point where Honey Creek enters the present Wabash River Valley. Most of the site is heavily covered with sod.

Artifacts: 1 side-notched projectile point
x flint chips

Vigo 40, Section 32, T 11 N, R 9 W, Honey Creek Township

Terrain: Small sandy terrace at the foot of the main Wabash River bluffs, which at this portion of the valley are separated from the river by several miles of bottom lands. The site is $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles southwest of Vigo 39.

Artifacts: 1 side-notched projectile point
3 retouched flakes
1 clay pipe bowl, European mold-made
x flint chips

The presence of the pipe bowl of European manufacture in the collection from this site very likely does not indicate a contact site. Pipes of this type are being made and sold to this day.

Vigo 50, Section 1, T 11 N, R 8 W, Riley Township

Terrain: A gravelly bluff just north of Little Honey Creek.

Artifacts: 1 ovate blade, broken
2 retouched flakes
x flint chips

Vigo 55, Section 23, T 11 N, R 10 W, Prairieton Township

Terrain: Sandy rises in the bottoms 100 feet southwest of Honey Creek.

Artifacts: 1 drill or graver, broken
1 flake knife with scraper edge
4 retouched flakes
x flint chips

Unlike the Otter Creek drainage, the sites of the Honey Creek drainage are not found exclusively on one type of terrain and are not as large or productive of artifacts as those of the Otter Creek drainage. The meagerness of the material remains from this drainage precludes much more than brief speculation. A triangular projectile point, usually indicative of a late site, was found on Vigo 37. Note that none of this type of point occurred in the Otter Creek drainage. The presence of the European made clay pipe bowl on the surface of Vigo 40 can not be taken as indicating contact at this site for, as was said before, this type of pipe is still being made.

Prairie Creek Drainage

Linton and Prairie Creek townships comprise the Prairie Creek drainage area. In this section extensive bottom lands border the Wabash River and are excluded from the Prairie Creek area; but the second terrace of the river, those bluffs immediately bordering the "bottoms," are included. The following nine camp sites were recorded for this drainage.

Vigo 1, Section 16, T 10 N, R 10 W, Prairie Creek Township

Terrain: Sandy upland on the second terrace of the Wabash River.

Artifacts: 1 corner-notched projectile point
1 end scraper
2 flint spalls
x flint chips and burned rock fragments

Vigo 3, Section 28, T 10 N, R 10 W, Prairie Creek Township

Terrain: Same as Vigo 1 (above), but two miles south of that site along the bluffs.

Artifacts: 1 hammerstone, pitted
1 broken projectile point
1 graver
x flint chips and burned rock fragments

Vigo 24, Section 33, T 10 N, R 10 W, Prairie Creek Township

Terrain: Small sand rise on the bluffs east of the Wabash bottoms. A marshy sink is located 50 feet north of the site.

Artifacts: 1 "turtleback" with a graver point
1 retouched flake
x flint chips

Vigo 36, Section 20, T 10 N, R 10 W, Prairie Creek Township

Terrain: A sandy knoll in the bottoms. A swamp extends to the river side of the knoll. There is a sparse oak growth on the knoll and the surface is heavily sodded.

Artifacts: 1 stemmed projectile point
1 core scraper
1 retouched flake
1 fragment of long bone
x flint chips

Vigo 38, Section 29, T 10 N, R 10 W, Prairie Creek Township

Terrain: A sandy terrace at the foot of the Wabash bluffs and approximately 100 feet from a small branch of Prairie Creek.

Artifacts: 1 anvil stone, deeply pitted
1 hammerstone, bi-pitted
1 side-notched projectile point
1 ovate blade
1 broken blade
1 flake graver
9 retouched flakes
x flint chips and burned rock fragments

This site, by comparison with the sites of the Otter Creek drainage, is probably of the Middle Woodland time period.

Vigo 51, Section 21, T 10 N, R 10 W, Prairie Creek Township

Terrain: One of a series of sand rises on the second terrace of the Wabash River. A drainage ditch, probably a former stream, is located approximately 100 feet south of the site.

Artifacts: 1 celt, banded slate
1 slab mortar, granite
1 ground slate object (?)
1 broken projectile point
3 skull fragments, human
1 long bone fragment
10 retouched flakes
x flint chips and burned rock fragments

This site is probably of the late Archaic or early Early Woodland period. The ground slate artifacts and the slab mortar would indicate occupancy somewhere about this time period.

Vigo 52, Section 22, T 10 N, R 10 W, Prairie Creek Township

Terrain: A sandy ridge north of Prairie Creek and 50 feet west of a branch of that creek. The site is planted with fruit trees.

Artifacts: 3 grit-tempered, strip-marked body sherds
x flint chips

The presence of strip-marked sherds at this site would indicate a Late Woodland occupation.

Vigo 54, Section 26, T 10 N, R 10 W, Prairie Creek Township

Terrain: A clay ridge a few yards west of a branch of Prairie Creek.

Artifacts: 1 broken projectile point
2 flake side scrapers
1 core scraper
x flint chips

Vigo 57, Section 20, T 10 N, R 10 W, Prairie Creek Township

Terrain: A sandy outwash terrace at the base of the Wabash Bluffs.

Artifacts: 3 stemmed projectile points, found and owned by Mrs.
Archie Figg
x flint chips observed by the survey party

The Prairie Creek drainage, like the Honey Creek, does not present as uniform a picture as does the Otter Creek drainage. Sites are found on several different types of terrain and are generally small, with few surface evidences of habitation. Few conclusions can be drawn from the artifacts collected on the surface of these sites and it is only when they are considered with the village sites of the drainage that the affiliations and chronological placement become more definite.

Sugar Creek Drainage

The Sugar Creek drainage contains only that portion of Sugar Creek Township that is drained by Sugar Creek. The headwaters of the creek are in Illinois so that only the sites on the lower portion of the stream are here noted. There are but two small sites recorded for this portion of the Sugar Creek drainage.

Vigo 28, Section 25, T 12 N, R 10 W, Sugar Creek Township

Terrain: Ridge of glacial outwash 200 yards north of a small branch of Sugar Creek.

Artifacts: 1 slab mortar, large
2 bi-pitted hammerstones
x flint chips

Vigo 49, Section 25, T 12 N, R 10 W, Sugar Creek Township

Terrain: Gravel bluff just north of Little Sugar Creek.

Artifacts: 1 side-notched projectile point
6 retouched flakes
x flint chips

Too little is known of this drainage as a result of the meager collections from the sites listed above for any conclusions to be drawn.

Main Wabash River Valley Sites

This section deals with the sites in or bordering on the main valley of the Wabash River, which, if associated with one of the tributary streams, are associated only by being located near the mouth of that stream. Eight sites are so located.

Vigo 19, Section 2, T 11 N, R 10 W, Sugar Creek Township

Terrain: Sandy upland between the Clear Creek and Wabash River valleys.

Artifacts: 1 broken projectile point
1 thumbnail scraper
1 flake side scraper
3 retouched flakes
1 core
x flint chips

Vigo 20, Section 2, T 11 N, R 10 W, Sugar Creek Township

Terrain: Same as Vigo 19 (above) and 150 yards southeast of that site.

Artifacts: 1 "T" drill, broken
1 sandstone abrader
1 fragment of burned sandstone
x flint chips

Vigo 29, Section 9, T 12 N, R 9 W, Harrison Township

Terrain: Terrace east of the Wabash River and overlooking the "bottoms." The site is heavily covered with sod.

Artifacts: 1 side-notched projectile point
3 broken projectile points
3 ovate blades, broken
5 retouched flakes
x flint chips and burned rock fragments

This site is very similar to those of the Otter Creek drainage and is probably of the Middle Woodland time period.

Vigo 32, Section 21, T 11 N, R 10 W, Sugar Creek Township

Terrain: Sandy bluff west of the Wabash River.

Artifacts: 3 retouched flakes
1 flint core, Harrison County flint
x flint chips

Vigo 34, Section 27, T 13 N, R 9 W, Otter Creek Township

Terrain: Badly eroded sandy bluff west of Otter Creek and on the Wabash River bluffs.

Artifacts: 1 thin triangular projectile point
1 side scraper
2 chert cores
4 retouched flakes
x flint chips and burned rock fragments

If we accept thin triangular projectile points as an indication of late occupation, this site would fall in the Late Woodland period.

Vigo 47, Section 5, T 12 N, R 9 W, Sugar Creek Township

Terrain: Sandy-gravel bank that is a portion of the second terrace of the Wabash River.

Artifacts: 1 flake knife, large
2 flake gravers
14 retouched flakes
x flint chips and burned rock fragments

Vigo 52, Section 3, T 13 N, R 9 W, Fayette Township

Terrain: The crest of a large sand ridge that extends out into the Wabash River Valley approximately 200 feet north of Brouillette's Creek. The site is in pasture and material was found only in stock paths and eroded areas.

- Artifacts:
- 2 pitted hammerstones
 - 3 side-notched projectile points
 - 1 ovate blade, small
 - 3 blades, crude, roughly ovate
 - 2 flake side scrapers
 - 2 flake knives
 - 3 chert cores
 - 24 retouched flakes
 - x flint chips and burned rock fragments

This site is very probably of the Middle Woodland time period. The artifacts agree very well with those found at the sites in the Otter Creek drainage, an area of Middle Woodland occupations as well as Early Woodland.

Vigo 58, Section 5, T 12 N, R 9 W, Sugar Creek Township

Terrain: A gravelly terrace that forms part of the second terrace of the Wabash River.

- Artifacts:
- 1 three-quarter-grooved ax
 - 1 celt

The artifacts listed above are in the possession of Mr. Walker Robinson who found them on the site. The survey found flint chips and burned rock fragments on this site.

The sites of the main Wabash River Valley exhibit a degree of variation that is similar to that found in the Honey Creek and Prairie Creek drainages. Sites representing what is probably a time span from Early through Late Woodland are represented. This is what would be expected along a main arterial watercourse.

Miscellaneous Camp Sites

The following two sites are located outside the drainage areas listed above.

Vigo 33, Section 20, T 13 N, R 9 W, Fayette Township

Terrain: A glacial bluff, very rocky and approximately 100 feet south of Coal Creek.

- Artifacts:
- 1 bell pestle
 - 1 bi-pitted hammerstone
 - 1 broken projectile point
 - 2 retouched flakes
 - x flint chips

This site, as witness the bell pestle, is probably early and can be tentatively assigned to a period somewhere in the late Archaic and Early Woodland time period.

Vigo 46, Section 28, T 10 N, R 8 W, Pierson Township

Terrain: Clay upland east of the valley of the Wabash. This is the only site located on these clay uplands.

Artifacts:

- 1 bi-pitted hammerstone
- 1 hammerstone, pitted on the edges and one face
- 2 retouched flakes
- x flint chips (very few)

MOUNDS

Vigo 2, Section 28, T 10 N, R 10 W, Prairie Creek Township

This site, known as the "Schoolhouse Mound," is very probably a modified natural knoll. It is located on the edge of the east bluffs of the Wabash River and rises from a terrace that extends westward from the main bluff line. It is difficult to determine where the natural terrace ends and where artificial modification begins, so that accurate measurement without some excavation is impossible. The estimated dimensions, however, are approximately 30 feet in height and 125 feet in diameter. At least five pits—well sodded over—on the apex of this mound testify to the past activities of interested amateurs. There is little erosion apparent.

This mound is shaped like the more common Adena type of mound, and the existence of Vigo 44 near by, a village that produced a Marion Thick potsherd which belongs to the Adena time period, could indicate a relationship.

Vigo 11 and 12, Section 14, T 13 N, R 9 W, Otter Creek Township

These two numbers have been assigned to a group of mounds known as the Modisett Mounds. These mounds are strung out along the east bluff of the Wabash River for almost a mile. Vigo 11 refers to seven mounds distributed in a general northeast to southwest direction along the bluff. Each of these mounds has been pitted to some degree by unknown excavators. Several slightly elevated areas of dark soil in adjacent plowed fields probably indicate other mounds almost totally obliterated by agricultural activity.

Vigo 12 refers to the southernmost mound of this group which is separated from the seven mounds referred to above by a small road. This mound has been preserved as a picnic site. At present, it is in the form of a truncated dome twelve feet high and one hundred and twelve feet in diameter. This mound is a part of the Modisett group and is the largest mound of that group.

Three mounds of this group are built so that their bases almost touch. This is a trait found in the Greene County Hopewell sites in Greene and Owen counties²⁰ and is of importance when considered in the light of the pottery from Vigo 35, the associated village site. Here sherds related to Havana Plain pottery, an Illinois Hopewell type, were recovered and these could represent the culture of the village site at the time the mounds were constructed. I believe that this is probably the correct association and that pottery of Late Woodland affiliation found at the village site represents a post-mound occupation.

Vigo 31, Section 20, T 10 N, R 10 W, Prairie Creek Township

This mound group is made up of two mounds built on a small gravel terrace extending from the second terrace bluff out into the Wabash River bottoms. The mounds are small dome-shaped structures, approximately five feet high and forty feet in diameter. Their bases are only 25 feet apart. On the surface of the southernmost of these mounds pottery was found in the dirt dug from the interior by a woodchuck. This pottery, comprising 25 sherds, consisted of 1 rim sherd and 24 body sherds. The rim sherd is thick (10 mm.), made of a heavily grit-tempered friable paste, has an insloping lip with shallow notches on the slope, is cord marked on the exterior, smooth on the interior, and is decorated by two incised lines over the cord marking on the exterior. These lines are parallel to the rim. The body sherds are of the same description except that no incising over cord marking occurs and their thickness ranges up to 14 mm.

Were it not for the lack of interior markings, these sherds could be very easily classed as variant of Marion Thick. The smooth interior, in combination with the insloping lip and the external incised lines, however, shows Illinois Valley Hopewell affiliation—specifically, with the Havana Ware series. The combination of traits on these sherds leads me to believe that this is a transitional pottery type with both Marion Thick

²⁰ Black, *The Archaeology of Greene County*; Helmen, Vernon R., *Archaeological Survey of Owen County Indiana* (Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, 1950).

and Havana traits. The incising on the exterior rim is possibly the result of Black Sand influence.

The only other artifacts excavated by the woodchuck were two flint chips, a Wormian bone from a human skull, and an unidentified bone fragment.

I do not hesitate to class this mound group as belonging to the Early to early Middle Woodland period.

Vigo 56, Section 5, T 11 N, R 9 W, Honey Creek Township

This mound group, consisting originally of at least seven mounds, is almost obliterated with the exception of two small dome-shaped structures on the lawns of the Benbridge farm. The closest village site is Vigo 18 which is located approximately three hundred yards from the nearest mound. These are all low mounds with perhaps a maximum diameter of forty feet. No classification can be made at present.

Vigo 59, Section 3, T 12 N, R 9 W, Harrison Township

This mound group is now destroyed, but it was located on Harrison Prairie just east of the Fort. Early reports indicate that the mounds were quite low when first seen by the settlers and were soon plowed down.

Vigo 61, Section 30, T 12 N, R 9 W, Sugar Creek Township

A mound group, destroyed by the expansion of West Terre Haute, was formerly located on the second terrace of the river. No trace of this group could be found by the survey party.

Vigo 22, Section 29, T 13 N, R 9 W, Fayette Township

This site, locally known as a mound, is located on the bluffs along Coal Creek. Examination showed it to be an erosional relic with stone outcrops appearing on the side slopes. Several pits have been sunk on the crest of this natural formation.

It would be well to state at this time that many of the so-called mounds of Vigo County are nothing more than small sand dunes formed by wind action. A majority of the "mounds" to which the survey party was directed turned out to be such dunes.

The mounds of Vigo County, with one exception, consist of quite large groups of small mounds. That one exception is the "Schoolhouse Mound" which is large and solitary. The evidence would indicate a Middle Woodland time period for the mounds found in groups and an Early to Middle Woodland period for the "Schoolhouse Mound."

CONCLUSIONS

The body of this report has contained short conclusions in the various sections which, while serving to interpret the materials within one site or one drainage area, do not present a cohesive and related picture for Vigo County as a whole. It remains to examine the materials within the entire area of Vigo County.

An occupational chronology for the county includes five general cultural periods: pre-pottery, Early, Middle, and Late Woodland; and early historic. The pre-pottery period is very poorly represented, and only one site, Vigo 10 in Otter Creek Township, can be so classed with assurance. For example, this site produced a full-grooved ax, a bell pestle, a roller pestle, and side-notched projectile points. Vigo 15 also has what is very probably a pre-pottery occupational level as evidenced by the grooved limestone plummets and bannerstone from that site. Other small sites, too, very likely belong to the pre-pottery occupation of the area; however, the evidence is so meager that no positive statements may be made concerning them.

The Early Woodland occupation of the county is represented by a series of sites. Three villages in as many townships (Otter Creek, Honey Creek, and Prairie Creek) produced Marion Thick pottery indicative of Early Woodland occupation, and a sherd of Marion Thick was found at a small camp site in the Otter Creek drainage.

The village sites from which Marion Thick sherds were obtained, Vigo 5, 44, 48, were not sites that were occupied during one period only, but sites which were made use of by peoples of several different cultural and temporal periods. This makes assignment of artifact types other than pottery quite difficult, since surface collections do not reflect temporal associations and artifacts found on the surface of a site may belong to any time period represented at that site.

The wide distribution of sites from which Marion Thick sherds were recovered indicates an extensive occupation of the area with all four of the Marion Thick producing sites occurring on the second terrace of the Wabash Valley or of its tributary streams.

As was pointed out in the text, early Havana Ware pottery, which belongs to the Middle Woodland period, can be differentiated from Marion Thick only with difficulty. The interior decoration of Marion Thick no longer occurs and insloping lips begin to show up. The best example of what I consider to be the transitional type in Vigo County consists of the sherds from Vigo 31, the Rhodes Mounds. The sherds from this site have a Marion Thick paste but lack the interior modifica-

tion by either cord or fabric. The lip is insloping and notched on the interior edge while the rim exterior has been modified by incised horizontal lines. The vessel from which these sherds came would be classed as Havana Cord Marked, and shows evidence of development from the thick-ware tradition of the eastern United States and the Black Sand horizon of the Illinois Valley. It belongs to the late Early or early Middle Woodland tradition and developed into the more typical Havana Ware as found on other Vigo County sites—thinner, more compact paste with finer grit temper. The evidence is such as to point to a development out of Early Woodland into Middle Woodland with little outside influence. Some pottery traits are dropped and others added, but there is no sudden change to a new form or tradition. It would be very pertinent to this problem to examine skeletal material from sites of this period to determine if there has been a shift in the local physical type to indicate an influx of outsiders who introduced the elements of modification and change that were responsible for the differentiation of the basic hunting-gathering, grit-tempered pottery tradition.

During the main portion of the Middle Woodland period, a greater range of pottery types occurs and from Vigo 44, Havana Plain, Havana Cord Marked, Netler Crescent Stamped, and Greene Cord Marked were recovered. These, when considered with the Marion Thick sherds from this site, reflect a considerable depth of occupation and the possibility of a developmental sequence being revealed by excavation.

Another Middle Woodland pottery type occurs but seems, as Greene Cord Marked, to belong to late Middle Woodland. This is Summit Cord Marked and, together with Greene Cord Marked, is representative of a widespread Late Woodland horizon in the Middle West. Pottery related to these two types persists into the Late Woodland period and is present at sites strongly influenced by Upper Mississippi.

This raises the question of Middle and Late Woodland relationships in Vigo County. The evidence of the survey indicates that, as in the early Middle Woodland period, there was no sudden change demarking Middle from Late Woodland. There is also little or no evidence of Upper Mississippi influence, a few triangular projectile points comprising the totality of material which could be attributed to this late manifestation. Although Upper Mississippi sites are located less than one hundred miles east of the county and Middle Mississippi sites are numerous along the lower Wabash, no shell-tempered pottery was recovered or reported for Vigo County. Thus, the Woodland Pattern continued with not too great a change from late Middle into Late Woodland. The manifestations that belong to the Late Woodland period, however, are represented by several distinct pottery types.

One of these is a strip-marked type that occurred at three Vigo village sites, Vigo 18, 35, and 42. As stated in the body of the report, this pottery bears a close resemblance to Madisonville Grooved Paddle although the method of fabrication was probably different. The occurrence of strip-marked sherds at Vigo 18, a site that was occupied during the early historic period, would indicate that this type is very late. The information derived from Vigo 35 and 42 would in no way run counter to this although the major evidence for assignment to Late Woodland-early historic comes from Pits I and II at Vigo 18, one a contact pit and one pre-contact. The close relationship of the pottery from these two pits indicates a not too distant temporal separation.

One other Late Woodland pottery type occurred at both Vigo 5 and 18. This is a very thin, grit-tempered, cord-marked type that closely resembles sherds of the Tonti Component at Starved Rock, Illinois. The sherds of this type from Vigo 18 which are on the contact and immediate pre-contact level show the close temporal as well as typological relationship of this site to the Starved Rock manifestation.

The origin and relationship of the thick, poorly made pottery found in Pit I at Vigo 18 is unknown.

In an attempt to identify the European national group responsible for the trade material found at Vigo 18, an analysis of a brass fragment from Pit I was made. The hope of establishing the ore sources of the specimen from the impurities contained was fruitless; however, the result of the analysis is given below:²¹

Sample: 3.5 grams of brass plate

Cu	62.60%
Pb	2.06%
Ni	0.03%
Sn	.00%
Fe	0.34%
Ag	.00%
Zn	The remainder

A final word concerning the affiliations of the mounds recorded for the county is necessary. Since pottery from the Rhodes Mounds indicates early Middle Woodland affiliation and since there is no indication of the construction of mounds by groups of the Late Woodland period, it is very probable that the mound groups of the county, with the exception of the "Schoolhouse Mound," are Middle Woodland in origin. The "Schoolhouse Mound" is probably earlier and can be tentatively assigned to the Early Woodland period.

²¹ Analysis made by Edgar Blay, metallurgist, Insley Manufacturing Corporation, Indianapolis.

